

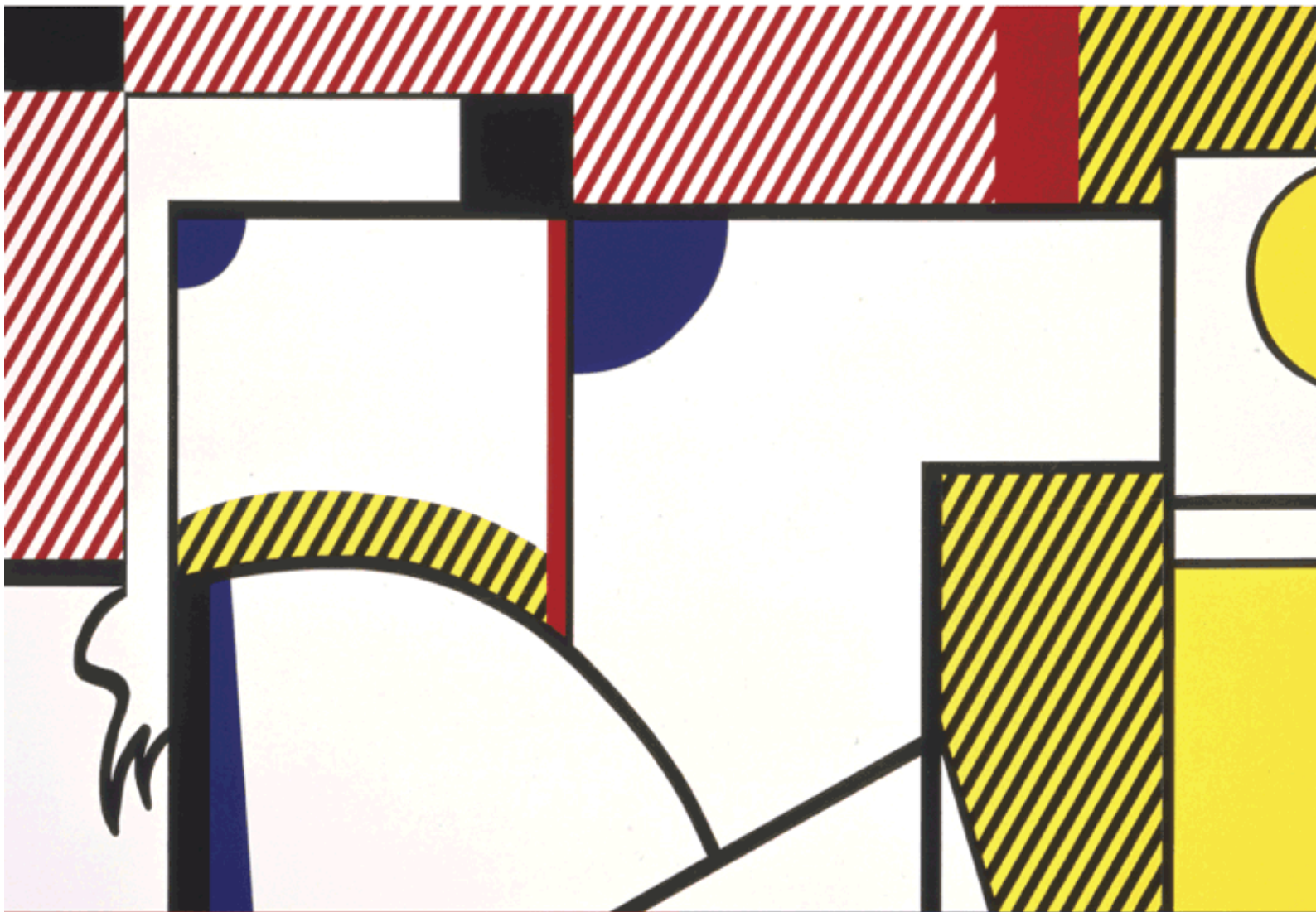
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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

Vocabulary Readers

A New Kind of Art



by Kristin Cashore

Number of Words: 527

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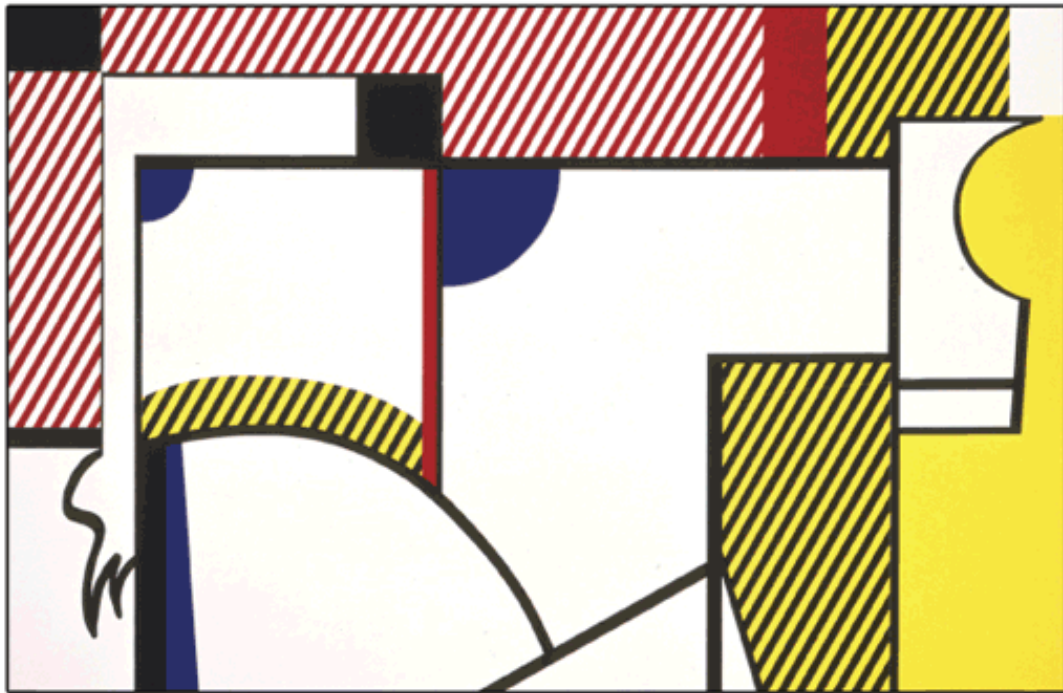
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A New Kind of Art



by Kristin Cashore



Strategy Focus

As you read, think of **questions** you have about the style of art known as Pop Art.



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

BOSTON

Key Vocabulary

abstract art in shapes that aren't realistic

canvas tough, woven material for painting

conceptual having to do with ideas

exhibition show of artwork

hyperrealistic extremely real looking

obstacles things that stand in the way

optically having to do with the eye

painstaking involving great care
and effort

palette board for mixing paint colors

pixels pieces of an electronic image

portrait painting of a person

Word Teaser

These two vocabulary words are opposites. What are they?

In 1923, a boy named Roy Lichtenstein (LIK-ten-stine) was born in New York City. As a child, Roy was quiet and thoughtful. He liked science and drawing. When he was 16, he began to take art classes.

As he grew older, Lichtenstein did many different things. He was a soldier in World War II. He went to college and became a teacher. He got married and had children. But no matter how his life changed, one thing remained the same: He always painted.



Like many artists of his time, Lichtenstein made abstract paintings. The people in his portraits didn't look like real people. He filled his pictures with strange, confusing shapes. They made his paintings optically interesting. In other words, they were exciting to look at!



The Hero's Return
Roy Lichtenstein
1950, oil on canvas

Then one day Lichtenstein painted a picture of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck for his children. It was different from anything else he had ever painted. Something about the picture appealed to him. He began to paint more pictures like it.



Look Mickey
Roy Lichtenstein
1961, oil on canvas



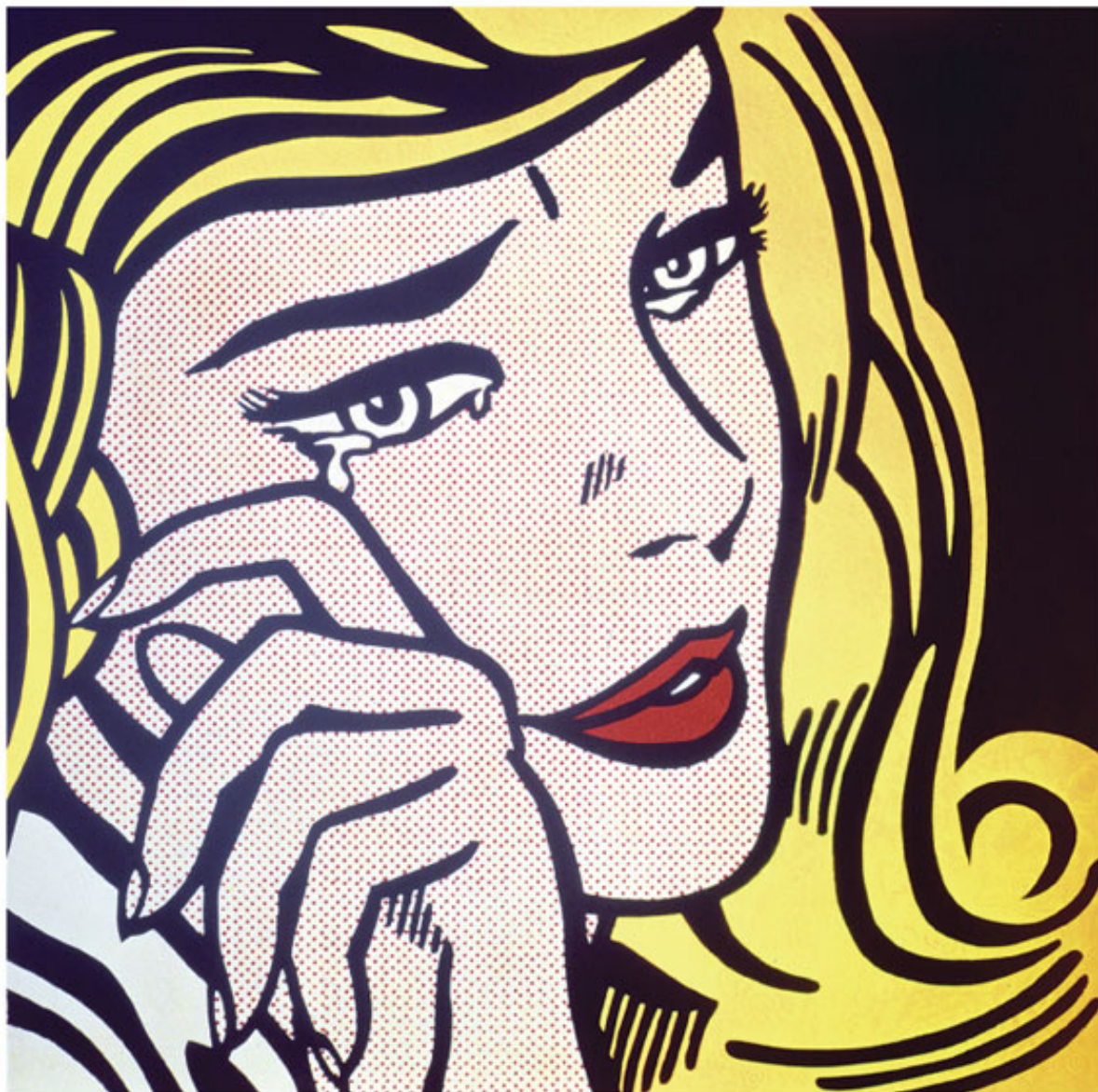
Lichtenstein started painting things from everyday life. He collected pictures from comic strips and ads. Using these pictures as models, he sketched drawings on painter's **canvas**. Then he mixed bright, bold colors on a board, or **palette**. He started the slow, **painstaking** job of turning his drawings into colorful paintings.

Lichtenstein now had a new painting style. It was different from his abstract painting. But it wasn't **hyperrealistic**. The people and things in his paintings still didn't look real. He used flat colors and thick outlines. Sometimes he painted tiny dots that looked like the **pixels** on a TV screen. Sometimes he painted words that the characters in his paintings were thinking or saying. It was a style that most people recognized. It was the style of a comic strip.



Mr. Bellamy
Roy Lichtenstein
1961, oil on canvas

Why did Lichtenstein start to make art that looked like a comic book? For him, art was about looking at things in new ways. He wanted to turn something ordinary, like a comic strip, into something beautiful. He liked to get people thinking.



Crying Girl
Roy Lichtenstein
1964, enamel on steel

Lichtenstein also liked to copy famous paintings by great artists. He painted them in his own style, using flat colors and dark outlines.

He gave a famous work of art a whole new look.

The Goldfish
Henri Matisse
1912, oil on canvas



Still Life with Goldfish
Roy Lichtenstein
1974, oil and magna on canvas

Lichtenstein's painting style got a new name: Pop Art. It was short for "Popular Art." Pop Art had to do with everyday, or popular, objects. Soon a whole group of artists became known as pop artists.

Lichtenstein became famous. Many people came to exhibitions of his paintings.



Baked Potato
Roy Lichtenstein
1962, oil on canvas

But Lichtenstein and other pop artists faced some **obstacles**, too. Some people didn't like Pop Art. They thought that it was flat, empty, and silly. They didn't think that everyday objects could be made into art.

But Roy and the other pop artists knew they were doing something important. They were helping people think about art in new ways. They changed people's **conceptual** understanding of art.

Roy Lichtenstein always painted the way his heart told him to paint. When he died, in 1997, he left behind many paintings that people still talk about. His art does what all good art does. It gets people thinking and feeling.



Responding

Putting Words to Work

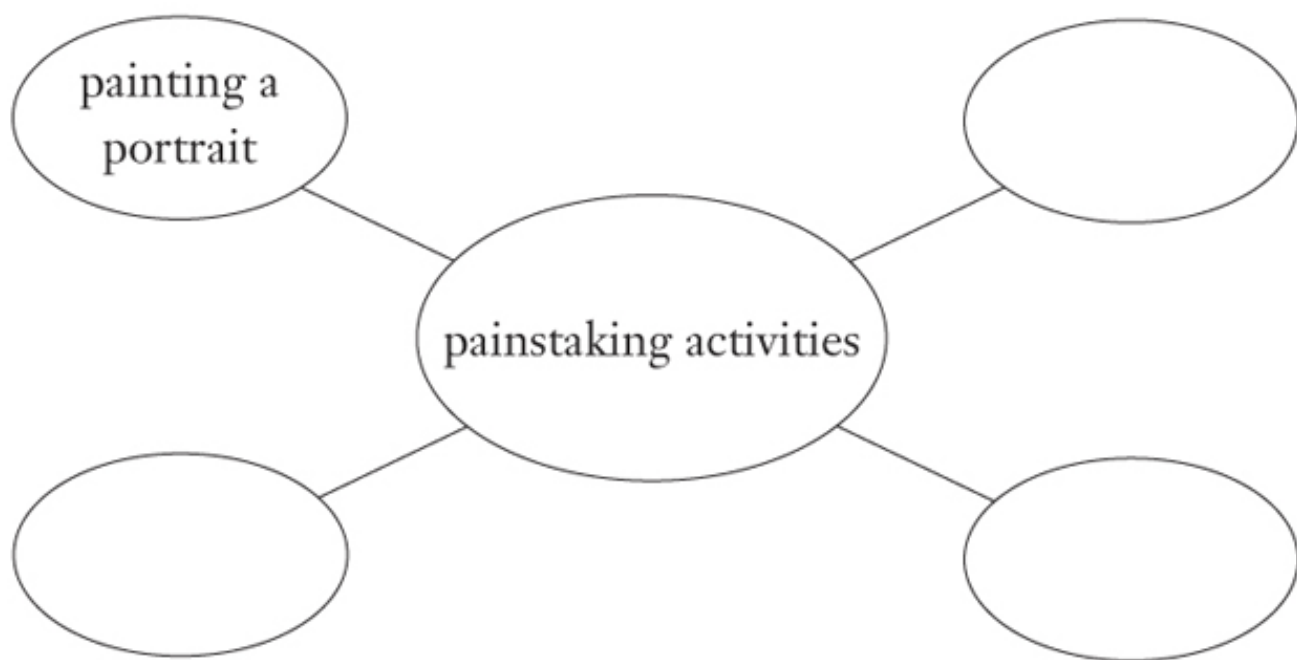
1. Lichtenstein often painted dots on his canvas that looked like **pixels**. He used thick outlines and gave his characters words to say. What did these paintings remind viewers of?
2. What kinds of **obstacles** did Lichtenstein and other pop artists face?
3. Look at the pictures on page 9. Imagine that you saw these together at an **exhibition**. How are these paintings alike? How are they different?
4. Look at the picture on page 4. What makes Lichtenstein's **abstract** art **optically** interesting?
5. **PARTNER ACTIVITY:** Think of a word you learned in the text. Explain its meaning to your partner and give an example.

Answer to Word Teaser

abstract and **hyperrealistic**

Word Builder

Painting a **portrait** is a **painstaking** job. Make a word web around the word *painstaking*. What other activities require careful work and effort? Copy this word web and add more words.



Write About It

What is a **painstaking** project or activity you have done? Write a paragraph describing it. Use the word *painstaking* in your paragraph, as well as at least one word or phrase from your Word Builder web.

Key Vocabulary

abstract
canvas
conceptual
exhibition
hyperrealistic
obstacles
optically
painstaking
palette
pixels
portrait

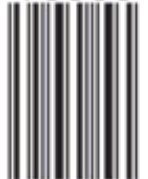
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